This anti-Kerry propaganda piece for which Sinclair Broadcasting is pre-empting programming just a few weeks before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

The ownership of the huge number of media outlets by a small number of unethical corporations like Sinclair Broadcasting is hurting American society. They are suppressing news (like the names of the American soldiers that died in Iraq) that does not further their goals, and they are starting to make up news that does further their goals (like the false Kerry quotes that MSNBC has been making up). Because large corporations are beholden to profit, they are quaranteed to support the most unethical candidate, who is more likely to further their goals at the expense of the interests of the America or the American people. We do not need another force for corruption in America -- we are barely handling the corrupting influence of campaign contributions.

Sinclair uses the

public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Thank you, Craig Howland